

**Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
Natural Resource Commission
4th Quarterly Report
October – November - December
2017**



Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
Natural Resource Commission

John Keshick III, Chairman
Renee Dillard, Vice-Chairman
Frederick Holdorff, Treasurer
Gerald Chingwa, Commissioner
William Ortiz, Commissioner

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The Natural Resource Commission is continuing to work on the Great Lakes Consent Decree for 2020 to define specific issues in areas of the Decree that were not completely specified or clarified at the time of signing the Decree in 2000. Many issues have arisen from the implementation of the 2000 Consent Decree and the changes of Whitefish or lack of Whitefish and Lake Trout being abundant. Due to the ever-changing ecosystem in the Great Lakes many areas of the 2000 decree has been amended by the Tribes, Federal Government and State of MI once an agreement has been reached. There are many areas that come up that have not been agreed upon or changes that are agreeable to all parties, there are some of the areas that will be addressed in the future decree and discussion will be held right up to the time of reaching an agreement.

The importance of the upcoming Great Lakes Consent Decree is a 20-year Decree and the current Decree will expire in 2020. There are many important changes that have had a great effect on LTBB Commercial Fishermen in the last 17 years that will need to be addressed in the upcoming 2020 Decree.

The Natural Resource Commission and the Natural Resource Department continue to lead in the enforcement, conservation and management of tribal natural resources by successfully and responsibly preserving the LTBB's sovereign right to hunt and fish, both on the inland lands and waters as well as commercial and subsistence fishing on the 1836 Great Lakes. Utilize our natural resources in order to promote, honor and respect our traditional, spiritual and physical relationship with the land and waters for the future benefit of our Tribe.

LTBB Natural Resource Commission Meetings Attended:

- October 11, 2017 Regular Scheduled Meeting
- October 25, 2017 Regular Scheduled Meeting
- November 8, 2017 Regular Scheduled Meeting
- December 7, 2017 CORA Meeting, Petoskey, MI
- December 13, 2017 Regular Scheduled Meeting

The Natural Resource Department is comprised of 4 divisions: Conservation Law Enforcement; Great Lakes Fisheries; Inland Fisheries and Inland Wildlife. The Natural Resource Commission and the Natural Resource Department assist in the development of Policies that have become necessary for the implementation of the Inland Consent Decree. Some of those policies developed are for species that LTBB has a season for such as the Bear Policy and Elk Policy. The Natural Resource Protection Statute is developed to assist the LTBB Conservation Officers in the field and to allow for Conservation Officers to have the authority to check persons in the field to ensure that they

are abiding by the rules and regulations. The Natural Resource Protection Statute will allow for Conservation Officers to check ID's and Licenses of persons encountered in the field to determine tribal jurisdiction vs. State hunters and fishers.

Natural Resource Commission Vacancies

The Natural Resource Commission is comprised of 5 Commissioners with staggered 4-year terms. This year there were 3 commissioner terms that were expiring, two of those current commissioners submitted their letters of interest for re-appointment, one has been re-appointed and the 2nd is waiting for an interview with Tribal Council. There are 2 new commissioners that have both been sworn in and attended the December Commission Meeting to bring to NRC to a full commission.

LTBB Rules and Regulations

- The LTBB Natural Resource Rules and Regulations for both Reservation and Ceded Territory for 2018 has been approved by Tribal Council and will be forwarded to the Natural Resource Department for distribution to Tribal Citizens when renewing their Hunting / Fishing License.
 - The Natural Resource Commission reviews comments from surveys and takes into consideration the comments to make the appropriate changes to the Rules and Regulations accordingly.
 - The LTBB Natural Resource Department Programs also review the Rules and Regulations and make suggestions on any updates that will apply to the 2018 Rules and Regulations.

The Rules and Regulations are subjected to change every year according to the LTBB Citizens comments from harvest surveys that are completed by tribal citizens when renewing their licenses, Conservation Law Enforcement input, Biologist studies and modeling and changes to the State of MI Regulations.

Natural Resource Commission/Department Programs

The Natural Resource Commissioners have assisted the Natural Resource Department with Youth and First Time Hunters program, Deer Processing Work Shop and providing LTBB Elders with Venison to be distributed through the LTBB Human Resource commodities program. These programs/events have had a positive reaction from Tribal Citizens and participation from tribal citizens, Natural Resource Commissioners and Natural Resource Department staff has become an annual event and has received positive feedback from the community.

The Natural Resource Commission would like to thank Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Tribal Chair's Office for recommendation to Tribal Council for their appointments to the Natural Resource Commission.

